

REMARKS

Claims 2, 7, and 9-12 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of December 31, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 3 and 4 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice and without traversed. Accordingly, the present amendment cancels claims 3 and 4.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 2 has now been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

Art Rejections

Claims 2, 7, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-2-254139 to Toyo Kohan Co., Ltd.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The shadow mask material of the present invention is now recited as "consisting of" the materials recited in the claims. In JP-2-254139 the material for the shadow mask contains 0.01 to 0.05 weight % chromium. The chromium is added to the material for a shadow mask in order to make chromium carbide and to improve the press formability characteristics. However, generation of chromium carbide slows down the speed of decarbonization of a steel sheet. It requires a period of several hours to anneal the steel sheet of JP-2-254139.

The material for the shadow mask according to the present invention does not contain chromium. Without chromium, the material can be decarbonized in a short time, about one to two minutes. Thus, the steel sheet of the present invention is quite different from that of JP-2-254139 with respect both to the inclusion of chromium and the decarbonization time.

The present amendment raises no new issues, as the amendments to the claims merely limit the composition to one that does not contain chromium. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, as it places the claims into condition for allowance.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted
that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and
favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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